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9/2013

LIVING SINGLE

"Synclaire's In The House"

Written by

Stacey Lyn Evans

WRITER'S REVISED FIRST DRAFT
January 7, 1994.

310-645-2505

LIVING SINGLE
"Synclaire's In The House"
TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (DAY 1)
(Regine, Khadijah, Synclaire)

REGINE IS IN THE KITCHEN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE HOMEMADE WAFFLES. THE WAFFLE IRON IS GIVING HER A TOUGH TIME. AFTER OPENING, THE WAFFLE IS STUCK. SHE PRIES IT OFF WITH A FORK TO NO AVAIL. SYNCLAIRE WALKS IN AND NOTICES REGINE'S STRUGGLE AND GOES STRAIGHT TO THE FREEZER FOR SOME FROZEN WAFFLES)

SYNCLAIRE

Morning Regine. Would you like one of these waffles? It might save you some time.

REGINE

We've had this waffle iron for three months and it's never been used. I'm on a mission for homemade waffles.

KHADIJAH ENTERS THE KITCHEN.

KHADIJAH

Good morning. Regine, you're making homemade waffles, how bougie. Synclaire, could you pop one of those in for me too?

AS SYNCLAIRE'S WAFFLE POPS UP IN THE TOASTER, SHE POPS ONE IN FOR KHADIJAH.

SYNCLAIRE

You betcha.

REGINE

Excuse me, but why are you two toasting some old frost bitten, processed waffles from a box when I'm making these light, fluffy and airy ones from scratch?

SHE OPENS THE IRON TO FIND A BURNT WAFFLE STUCK TO THE IRON. WHEN KHADIJAH'S WAFFLE, GOLDEN BROWN AND CRISPY POPS UP, REGINE REACHES FOR IT.

KHADIJAH

If you know what's good for you, you would want to let go of my eggo.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE
SCENE A

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (DAY 1)
(Synclaire, Khadijah, Regine, Kyle, Max, Overton)

SYNCLAIRE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH READING SOAP OPERA DIGEST. KHADIJAH IS TRYING TO WORK ON HER LAP TOP COMPUTER.

SYNCLAIRE

Ooh Khadijah, listen to this.

KHADIJAH

Synclaire, I told you I don't have time to listen to that Soap Opera madness.

SYNCLAIRE

But this is really good. It turns out that Christy's beau hunk fiance James, has a secret passion for cross dressing in women's clothes.

KHADIJAH

In this crazy world today, is that such a shock?

SYNCLAIRE

Yeah well, she has agreed to let him go public with his passion. They are going to get married wearing matching wedding gowns!

KHADIJAH

Okay, now that's whack!

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. KHADIJAH AND SYNCLAIRE DON'T MOVE. REGINE EMERGES FROM THE KITCHEN.

REGINE

Hello? Isn't anyone going to answer the door?

KHADIJAH

It's your week to answer the door Regine.

PERTURBED, SHE CROSSES TO ANSWER THE DOOR. IT'S KYLE.

KYLE

Hey Regine, Synclaire, Khadijah.

THEY AD-LIB HELLOS.

KYLE

I was wondering if I could borrow your large baking pan. Overton and I have just entered the annual Real Men Can Cook contest taking place on Saturday and I'm going to cook my famous "Passionate Peach Cobbler.

KHADIJAH

But Kyle, you can not cook.

KYLE

Minor set back. But Regine can.

REGINE

What is the purpose of entering a cooking contest when you can't cook?

KYLE

Regine, the Real Men Can Cook contest is a wonderful event and the money raised goes towards the United Negro College Fund.

SYNCLAIRE

And we all know that a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

THEY ALL LOOK AT SYNCLAIRE.

KHADIJAH

Too easy.

KYLE

Regine, I need a crash course on how to cook your incredible cobbler. Aside from the philanthropic reasons, some of the most beautiful, eligible and upwardly mobile women in the city attend this event every year. It's a networking affair.

KHADIJAH

It's a macking affair.

SFX: KNOCK AT DOOR.
REGINE CROSSES TO OPEN DOOR REVEALING MAX.

MAX

Hey people. Boy, somebody is throwing down upstairs. Whatever they are cooking smells good.

REGINE

Yeah? Well why don't you have a change of pace and take your hungry butt upstairs?

MAX

Oh no, I couldn't. I hate to impose on folks.

REGINE

Ha! You don't seem to mind pilfering our cupboards bare.

MAX

(SARCASTICALLY)

You're different. You are like family.

SHE GIVES REGINE AN INSINCERE HUG.

KYLE

That's Overton upstairs cooking a practice batch of his chilli. He has taken over the entire kitchen so in addition to lessons I'm going to need to borrow your kitchen as well. Anyway Regine, what do you say? Are you going to help me out or what?

REGINE

What's in it for me?

KYLE

The satisfaction of knowing you helped a positive brother out.

REGINE

And?

KYLE

Fifty bucks.

REGINE

Uh huh, that's what I'm talking about. Consider class now in session.

KYLE

Cool.

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. KYLE OPENS THE DOOR REVEALING OVERTON.

OVERTON

Kyle. Hello ladies. I just wanted to personally invite you all up to sample some of my famous "Cleveland Hothouse Chilli." A recipe passed down from my Great, Great Grand Daddy.

MAX

Great. I'll bring the crackers.

(TO KHADIJAH)

You got any crackers?

OFF KHADIJAH AND REGINE'S LOOK WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE
SCENE B

INT. LIVINGROOM - AFTERNOON (DAY 2)
(Khadijah, Synclaire, Regine, Max)

KHADIJAH IS AT THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT RECORDING THE QUINTESSENTIAL NEW OUTGOING MESSAGE.

KHADIJAH

This is 2-8-1, 3-0-4-1, but we are unable to come to the phone. If you leave your name and number at the tone, we'll back to you as soon as we get hooooome!

(BEAT)

Nah. Too hip hop. Take three.

(IN A SULTRY VOICE)

You've reached 281-3041, but I'm more than a number, talk to me.

SHE IS CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND A LITTLE EMBARRASSED BY A PANIC STRICKEN SYNCLAIRE WHO COMES RUSHING THROUGH THE DOOR.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh Khadijah, you're not going to believe this.

KHADIJAH

Synclaire, please, please tell me you picked up those tickets for the Ambassador's Ball.

SYNCLAIRE

Yes, here you go. Thank God they weren't in my purse.

KHADIJAH

Alright, now cut to the chase. what's up?

SYNCLAIRE

I was mugged on my way home!

KHADIJAH

Oh my God! Synclaire are you alright? Did you see the thief? How'd you get home?

SYNCLAIRE

Yes. No. A taxi.

KHADIJAH

How are you going to catch a cab with no money?

SYNCLAIRE

Well, Hasan is a very nice man...

SFX: AUTOMOBILE HORN SOUNDS FROM OUTSIDE

SYNCLAIRE

Although he's probably getting a little impatient waiting for his fare.

KHADIJAH CROSSES TO THE WINDOW.

KHADIJAH

(TO SYNCLAIRE)

Let me guess. You told Hasan that your cousin would foot the bill for your cab ride home?

SYNCLAIRE

Along with a free year's subscription for FLAVOR magazine.

SFX: CAR SKIDDING. KHADIJAH PEEKS OUT THE WINDOW AND NOTICES THE CAB DRIVING AWAY.

KHADIJAH

Is that Regine outside paying your cab driver?

SYNCLAIRE

Oh that's so sweet. I'll have to thank her when she comes in.

A FLUSTERED REGINE STORMS INTO THE APARTMENT.

REGINE

Can you believe these New York cab drivers? Okay, so one day last week I skipped out of the cab without paying.

(DEFENSIVELY)

I know. It was totally out of my character, but I was coming from a nail appointment and my nails were still damp. I wasn't about to dig down in my purse and mess up my french manicure. So... I fled. But he came back for his fare plus interest and had the nerve to try and run me down.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh but Regine, that cab driver...

KHADIJAH

(TO SYNCLAIRE)

Shhhh. Let it go.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE
SCENE C

INT. APARTMENT - SAME EVENING, A SHORT WHILE LATER (DAY 1)
(Khadijah, Synclaire, Regine, Max)

SYNCLAIRE ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS.

REGINE

Synclaire honey, how are you feeling?

SYNCLAIRE

Well, I'm still a little distraught over having my purse stolen. There were some very important items in that purse.

KHADIJAH

Well thank God you weren't hurt. All that other stuff can be replaced.

SYNCLAIRE

Yeah, everything except for that picture of me and Barney at the grand opening of that new store Fun Haven.

(OFF THEIR LOOKS)

What? I like Barney okay.

MAX

A fool tried to snatch my purse once.

KHADIJAH

Serious?

MAX

Yep. I gave him the old one-two-three. One. Sprayed his butt with a small can of mace. Two. Shocked his butt with my stun gun. Three. Kicked his butt with my three inch heel, Via Spiga pumps!

KHADIJAH CROSSES TO THE DESK TO PICK UP AN ENVELOPE AND BEGINS READING THE INVITATION INSIDE.

KHADIJAH

Well hey Synclaire, check this out. This ought to take your mind off the senseless crime lurking in our city streets.

(READING INVITATION)

KHADIJAH

You are cordially invited to attend the birthday celebration honoring Adaye Nwoye, son of Ambassador Imeca Uche Nwoye of Nigeria, Africa. Saturday... 8 PM... The African Embassy, Grand Ballroom.

REGINE

Oooh, the Ambassador's ball. I'll have to buy something new to wear.

MAX

Special hair for a special occasion.

KHADIJAH

(TO REGINE)

Oh, you have a date to the ball?

REGINE

Yeah, you.

MAX

Khadijah, how did you get the hook up for the ball, girl?

KHADIJAH

Now you know Mother's got the juice.

SYNCLAIRE

Uh huh, you used that old FLAVOR Magazine "official business" malarkey to get special press invites didn't you? You sneak!

REGINE

Hey! Sneak of the week, whatever works!

REGINE HI-FIVES KHADIJAH.

KHADIJAH

(CHECKING THE ENVELOPE)

Now let's see. There should be four tickets in here for the function at the junction.

MAX

Four tickets huh? My girl! I'd better go decide on what to wear.

KHADIJAH

Wait, hold up yo. What makes you think I don't have a date already lined up for Saturday?

THEY ALL SHOOT HER A LOOK AS IF TO SAY "WELL..."

KHADIJAH

So, what do you think about my gold, beaded dress?

(BEAT)

Hey, there are only three tickets in here.

MAX

Oh well. I guess that means one of you ain't going.

REGINE

Poor souls. You and Synclaire should flip a coin.

MAX

Wait just a minute. What makes you think that poor soul isn't you?

REGINE

Max. Darling. Now what would an Ambassador's Ball be without "Regine, in the house?"

MAX

An Ambassador's Ball without "Regine, in the house!"

THEY BEGIN TO SQUAB.

SYNCLAIRE

Hello. I have a suggestion. Why don't we draw straws. The one with the shortest straw, misses the ball.

KHADIJAH

Good idea Synclaire. We got any straws?

SYNCLAIRE

Plenty. Coming right up.

SHE EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

REGINE

This is so childish.

(BEAT)

I'll get the scissors.

REGINE GRABS A PAIR OF SCISSORS FROM THE DESK. SYNCLAIRE ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN HOLDING THIN STRAWS FROM THEIR BROOM.

KHADIJAH

Synclaire, I thought you said we had plenty of straws.

SYNCLAIRE

Now Khadijah. Don't be picky, straw is straw.

SHE CUTS THE STRAW VARIOUS LENGTHS.

REGINE

May we continue please? I have a ball to get ready for.

MAX

Oh you're that confident huh? You better get the popcorn and your pay-per-view movie choice ready just in case!

REGINE

(GAME FACE ON)

Let's do this straw thing!

MAX

Oh, it's on!

SYNCLAIRE

Khadijah, you get to hold the straws.

MAX DRAWS FIRST. REGINE DRAWS SECOND. HER STRAW IS SLIGHTLY LONGER. SHE CHUCKLES VICTORIOUSLY. SYNCLAIRE DRAWS THE SHORTEST STRAW. SHE TAKES HER DEFEAT IN STRIDE.

SYNCLAIRE

Well, I guess this just isn't my day.

REGINE

Oh Synclaire, you really should go to this ball. It would really lift your spirits. Max, give her your ticket.

MAX

What! You are tripping. No offense Synclaire, but you've got to get your own or perhaps Regine would like to give hers up.

KHADIJAH

If you two keep it up, Kyle and Overton will be my dates for the evening.

REGINE

It was just a thought.

SYNCLAIRE

I'd better go check our popcorn supply.

OFF THEIR LOOKS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE
Scene D

INT. APARTMENT - SATURDAY - DAY TWO
(Khadijah, Synclaire, Regine, Max, T.V. Announcer/(V.O.))

SYNCLAIRE ENTERS WITH A BIG BOWL OF POPCORN. REGINE SAUNTERS DOWNSTAIRS IN A SKIN TIGHT, FULL LENGTH DRESS.

REGINE

Synclaire, be a sweetie and help me with my zipper please.

SYNCLAIRE

Alrightie. Regine, you look absolutely beautiful.

AS SHE ZIPS UP THE DRESS, REGINE CAN HARDLY BREATHE.

REGINE

(STRAINING)

Thanks.

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. A STUNNING KHADIJAH COMES DOWNSTAIRS TO OPEN THE DOOR REVEALING MAX.

KHADIJAH

Maxine Shaw!

MAX

Is in the house!

(TO KHADIJAH ADMIRINGLY)

Oh, you better work girlfriend.

KHADIJAH

No, you better work!

MAX

I'm workin'.

SHE STRUTS IN MODELING HER OUTFIT.

REGINE

Alright, you both can keep working. My job's complete! So, how do I look?

KHADIJAH

You don't plan on sitting down tonight do you?

MAX

Or breathing.

(BEAT)

Come to think of it Regine, I love that dress. Come on y'all, the limo is waiting.

SYNCLAIRE

You all look so gorgeous.

(THE GIRLS CROSS TO EXIT)

KHADIJAH

Hey cuz, you gonna be alright here tonight all by yourself? Why don't you go check out Kyle and Overton at the cooking contest?

SYNCLAIRE

Khadijah, I'm a grown woman. I'll be fine. Gonna give myself a facial, paint my toenails, enjoy my inner peace.

REGINE

Yes, well we've got a ball to go to and a limo waiting ladies.

KHADIJAH

Yeah, we better get going. Thanks Synclaire for being so understanding.

SYNCLAIRE

It's no big deal. There will be other balls. So hey, you all go, have a grand evening.

THEY ALL AD-LIB "GOODBYES" AS SYNCLAIRE LOCKS THE DOOR BEHIND THEM. SHE CROSSES TO THE COUCH AND PICKS UP THE REMOTE CONTROL.

SYNCLAIRE

Now, let's see what's on T.V. tonight.

(SCANNING THE CHANNELS)

Seen it. Seen it twice. Hated it. Oooh. Too scary.

SFX: T.V. ANNOUNCER V.O.

ANNOUNCER V.O.

Next, Miss Piggy stars in the Muppet version of that magical classic, Cinderella.

SYNCLAIRE

Oooh, I love Cinderella.

SHE SETTLES ON THE COUCH FOR THE MOVIE.

TIME DISSOLVE:

ACT ONE
SCENE E

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME EVENING, A WHILE LATER
(Synclaire, Kyle, Overton)

KYLE

Pssst! Synclaire... wake up woman!

SYNCLAIRE

Kyle? What are you doing here and in your pajamas?

KYLE

These are not my pajamas. Let's just say, this is my Godfather Gear and I'm here to make your dreams come true.

SYNCLAIRE

You? Oh, I get it. You're my Fairy Godfather...

KYLE

Hey, hey, hey! You didn't hear me say a thing about a fairy. It's Godfather, period.

SYNCLAIRE

Sorry. So what are you doing here?

KYLE

You were dreaming. I always seem to always appear in various women's dreams. I'm that type of guy. Anyway, I am here to make your dream come true.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh, well I was sort of waiting for Mr. Right to come along. But thanks anyway.

KYLE

No, no, no, no. Wrong dream. I'm here to hook you up for the ball.

SYNCLAIRE

No way.

KYLE

Way.

SYNCLAIRE

But we drew straws and I got the shortest one and...

KYLE

What's my name?

SYNCLAIRE

Kyle.

KYLE

Right. Now stick with me and you'll be at that ball in no time.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh this is so exciting. Nothing like this ever happens to me.

KYLE

Alright, now pay attention. First matter of business, off with those clothes.

SYNCLAIRE

Wait just a minute Mr. Man. I am not that type of...

KYLE

Easy baby. It ain't that kind of party. Now, you're gonna need something fly to wear. You gotta turn heads when you arrive. Let 'em know "Synclaire's in the house."

SYNCLAIRE

Hey, like Max?

KYLE

Not quite. You want to turn heads not stomachs. Now, check this out!

WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND, KYLE TRANSFORMS SYNCLAIRE'S HOUSE CLOTHES INTO GORGEOUS EVENING WEAR.

KYLE

Um, um, um. Am I good or what!

SYNCLAIRE

(ADMIRING HERSELF)

Oh you're good!

KYLE

Next, you're going to need to roll in style. Do you have a subway token?

SYNCLAIRE

Yes. But that's not very stylish.

KYLE

Trust me.

SHE GOES TO THE DESK FOR A SUBWAY TOKEN AND TURNS THEM INTO KEYS.

KYLE

Here you go.

SYNCLAIRE

Wow! These are keys to a Rolls Royce!

KYLE

Now you're ready to roll. Oh, one more important item.

SYNCLAIRE

What's that?

KYLE

You will need an escort.

THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. SYNCLAIRE OPENS TO REVEAL A VERY DAPPER, HANDSOME OVERTON.

SYNCLAIRE

Overton?

OVERTON

At your service.

SYNCLAIRE

You're escorting me to the ball?

OVERTON

Synclaire, it would be my pleasure. Your chariot awaits.

HE TAKES HER ARM INTO HIS ARM AND ESCORTS HER OUT THE DOOR. KYLE FOLLOWS THEM OUT INTO THE HALLWAY.

KYLE

Synclaire, there is a statute of limitation on my magical skills. You gotta leave the ball by midnight otherwise... well you know how the story goes. Have fun!

SYNCLAIRE

Got it Godfather. Thank you so much.

SHE KISSES HIM ON THE CHEEK.

OVERTON

Don't wait up.

SYNCLAIRE

It's off to the ball we go!

OVERTON

To the ball!

AS THEY EXIT, KYLE CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.

KYLE

It's great to be great.

ON HIS LOOK WE:

FADE OUT

ACT BREAK

ACT TWO
SCENE H

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY BALLROOM - LATER THAT EVENING (Synclaire, Overton, Khadijah, Regine, Max, Adaye, extras.)

THE PARTY IS IN FULL SWING. THERE IS A RECEIVING LINE WITH THE AMBASSADOR, HIS FAMILY AND OTHER DIGNITARIES. SYNCLAIRE AND OVERTON ENTER THE LINE.

SYNCLAIRE

Overton, this is so exciting!

OVERTON

Yeah, this is alright. Synclaire, I don't know about you, but I'm ready to trip the light fantastic.

SYNCLAIRE

Well we're a little late but I think it is still appropriate that we greet the nice people throwing this party. Besides, how often will I get the opportunity to show off my curtsy.

SYNCLAIRE DEMONSTRATES HER CURTSY AS OVERTON WATCHES WITH ADMIRATION AND MUCH PLEASURE.

OVERTON

Oh, and what a cute curtsy you have.

THEY BEGIN THEIR TRIP DOWN THE RECEIVING LINE.

REGINE

Good evening. I am Ambassador Imecca Uche Nwoye of Nigeria and this is my beautiful wife, Sosi.

OVERTON

Ah, pleased to meet you. I am Overton Wakefield Jones the third of Cleveland, Ohio and this is my beautiful date, Synclaire James.

SYNCLAIRE

Hello.

SHE NERVOUSLY OFFERS A CURTSY AS THEY MOVE DOWN THE LINE.

OVERTON

(REFERRING TO ADAYE)

And this must be the birthday boy. Happy Birthday. I'm Overton and this is...

ADAYE

(EYES GLUED ON SYNCLAIRE)

Synclaire James, I overheard your introduction. It is a pleasure to meet you.

SYNCLAIRE

Well Happy Birthday to you.

THERE IS A LONG MOMENT AS THEIR EYES MEET. OVERTON BREAKS IT UP. AS THEY MOVE DOWN THE LINE, OVERTON IS AGGRESSIVELY GREETED BY ADAYE'S CHUBBY SISTER.

OVERTON

Good evening Ma'am.

EMILY

(FLIRTING)

Hello, I am Emily.

OVERTON

Emily, nice to meet you. Well, we better keep moving. Looks like we're holding up the line.

AS THEY FINISH THE LINE, SYNCLAIRE NOTICES EMILY CHECKING OVERTON OUT.

SYNCLAIRE

Overton, you look so handsome tonight, and I certainly don't want to mess up any action for you, so let's be single and mingle.

OVERTON

Alright, but let's synchronize our watches. We do have a curfew.

SYNCLAIRE

Got it.

AS THEY GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, SYNCLAIRE BEGINS FIDGETING WITH HER WATCH. SHE NOTICES ADAYE WALKING OVER TO HER.

ADAYE

Excuse me. I did not want to be rude and just stare while you were in line, but you are absolutely stunning. Once again, I am Adaye.

SYNCLAIRE

Pleased to meet you Adaye. Hey, that's a little like Sade except... oh never mind.

ADAYE

Synclaire. A beautiful name for a beautiful woman. You know, your presence seemed to warm up the whole room. You appear to be very real unlike so many of the guests here this evening.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh now I find that very hard to believe. I've never had a turn out like this for any of my parties.

ADAYE

Don't be deceived. I hardly know any of these people. My Father means well, but this party is really for him. It is simply another opportunity to enhance our country's connections. I feel like I am a guest at my own party.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh that's sad. Out of all of these people, haven't you made any friends yet?

ADAYE

Not until now. Would you care to dance?

BEFORE SHE CAN ANSWER, THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM AMBASSADOR NWOYE.

AMBASSADOR
~~REGINE~~

Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like you all to join me as we sing Happy Birthday to my son, our guest of honor, Adaye.

ADAYE

(TO SYNCLAIRE)

This is so embarrassing.

(WALKING AWAY)

Synclaire, I hope to dance with you before the evening is over.

SYNCLAIRE SIGHS AS ADAYE MAKES HIS WAY TOWARDS THE DANCE FLOOR. AFTER THE BIRTHDAY SONG, THE BAND CONTINUES PLAYING. SHE SPOTS OVERTON WHO IS POLITELY TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM EMILY'S ADVANCES. ACROSS THE ROOM SHE SPOTS KHADIJAH, REGINE AND MAX WHO ALL SEEM TO BE IN DEEP CONVERSATIONS WITH INTERESTING PEOPLE. ADAYE SNEAKS BACK OVER AND CATCHES HER OFF GUARD.

ADAYE

Hello! Now, how about that dance?

SYNCLAIRE

Aren't you going to cut your cake?

ADAYE

Nope. I'd rather dance with you.

SYNCLAIRE

Well let's cut the rug!

HE LEADS THE WAY TO THE DANCE FLOOR. TO HIS DELIGHT, THE BAND BEGINS PLAYING A SLOW SONG.

ADAYE

You are so funny and your fashionably late appearance was a breath of fresh air.

SYNCLAIRE

My friend Regine always says, if you want to make an entrance, arrive late. That is, until she arrived so late at her uncle Freddy's funeral, they had already started the next service. She didn't realize it until she took a close look at the picture on the program.

ADAYE

Ah yes, Regine. I had the pleasure of meeting her earlier. Quite an intriguing young woman.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh she's full of intrigue alright.

HE POINTS ACROSS THE ROOM TO REGINE WHO IS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION FOR THE MALE GUESTS. MAX IS DANCING WITH A VERY SHORT MAN, AND SHE'S LIKING IT. OVERTON, WHO BY NOW IS SLOW DANCING WITH EMILY, CHECKS HIS WATCH AND RUSHES OVER TO SYNCLAIRE.

OVERTON

Synclaire, it's five minutes to twelve. We'd better get going!

SYNCLAIRE

(TO ADAYE)

Yes, I'm sorry but I do have to be leaving.

ADAYE

Synclaire, do you really have to leave now?

SYNCLAIRE

Yes, you see Overton is my, uh... well I'm not really suppose to be... oh this is a toughie.

ADAYE

Meeting you truly made my birthday a happy one.

THERE IS ROMANTIC MOMENT. ADAYE MOVES IN FOR THE KISS. SYNCLAIRE MEETS HIM HALF WAY. JUST AS THEIR LIPS MEET, OVERTON BREAKS IT UP.

OVERTON

Synclaire! We must go!

ON SYNCLAIRE'S LOOK WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO
SCENE J

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING
(Synclaire, Khadijah, Regine)

SYNCLAIRE IS SLEEPING ON THE COUCH. KHADIJAH AND REGINE ENTER QUIETLY FROM THE BALL.

KHADIJAH

Synclaire. Synclaire. Wake up.

SYNCLAIRE

(PUCKERING IN HER SLEEP)

My lips quiver for you. Kiss me you fool!

KHADIJAH

(TO REGINE)

Yo, must have been a pretty steamy Pay-per-view flick on tonight.

REGINE

Oh let her sleep. She seems to be getting more action than we did tonight.

DISSOLVE

CUT TO:

ACT TWO
SCENE K

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY THE NEXT MORNING
(Regine, Kyle, Overton)

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. REGINE COMES DOWNSTAIRS TO OPEN THE DOOR REVEALING KYLE AND OVERTON.

KYLE

Hello Regine. Thanks for your pan.

OVERTON WALKS IN WITH HIS BLUE RIBBON ON.

REGINE

Overton, you won the contest!

KYLE

The man slept with that ribbon on.

OVERTON

Out of all the quiches, boulebaises and vichesoirs, my Cleveland Chilli took first place.

REGINE

Well Kyle, how did your peach cobbler turn out?

KYLE

It didn't.

REGINE

Did you follow my recipe?

KYLE

Well to a certain extent. You see,

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

I was showing off my culinary skills when I got a little distracted by this vision of loveliness who was shear poetry in motion. In short, instead of cinnamon, I accidentally grabbed the cayenne pepper and well, let's just say, it was a little spicy.

SFX: OVERTON'S BEEPER

OVERTON

Well, that's my cue. Gotta go Regine.

KYLE

Yeah, me too.

REGINE

Don't you guys want to hear about the ball?

KYLE AND OVERTON WALK TOWARDS THE DOOR.

KYLE

Later. I'm having brunch with a gorgeous young lady who thought the cayenne pepper gave my cobbler a special uniqueness all its own. See ya.

ACT TWO
SCENE L

INT. - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT MORNING
(Khadijah, Synclaire, Regine, Max, Adaye)

KHADIJAH AND REGINE ENTER FROM THE KITCHEN DISCUSSING THE BALL. REGINE IS SIPPING ON A CUP OF COFFEE WHILE KHADIJAH READS THE NEWSPAPER.

REGINE

Ol' Adaye was kind of fine, don't you think, Khadijah?

KHADIJAH

He was alright. No big whoop.

REGINE

Alright? Girl, I saw you slip him your business card.

KHADIJAH

Strictly business, Regine. I'm trying to hook up an interview with him for "Flavor" before he leaves the country.

REGINE

Well, ain't no shame to my game. I gave the brother my number, and other vital statistics and I'm sure he'll be calling soon.

SYNCLAIRE ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS TO JOIN KHADIJAH AND REGINE ON THE COUCH.

SYNCLAIRE

You know, I had the strangest dream last night.

REGINE

Umm, sounded a little kinky to me.

SYNCLAIRE

No, I'm serious. I was dreaming that I went to the ball and I danced with the Ambassador's son and everything.

KHADIJAH

Let me guess. You arrived in a pumpkin coach and we were your evil step sisters, right?

SYNCLAIRE

No, it was a Rolls Royce and you all were having a hard time getting men to notice you. Except for Max, who was content dancing with a very short man.

MAX RUSHES OVER WITH INTERESTING NEWS.

MAX

You guys will not believe who I just saw pulling up in front of the building... in a limousine... as fine as he wants to be. I'll give you one guess. Time's up! The ambassador's son, that fine African... Adaye! I wonder what he wants.

REGINE

(SIPPING COFFEE)

Was it not obvious last night the way he was watching me? You know men find me intriguing, what can I say?

KHADIJAH

With that coffee breath of yours, you better not say nothing. Hey, what if he decided to give me that interview?

WITH HER HAND, REGINE DOES A SELF BREATH TEST.

SYNCLAIRE

Well that's awfully rude to just drop by without calling first.

REGINE

And how would he know where you live Khadijah?

KHADIJAH

Hey, don't look at me. Besides, a good journalist never reveals her sources.

MAX

(PEEKING OUT OF THE WINDOW)

Oh my God, he's on his way up the stairs.

REGINE

Better rinse real quick, just for good measure.

SHE RUSHES UPSTAIRS TO GARGLE. AT THAT MOMENT THE DOORBELL RINGS. KHADIJAH PRIMPS IN THE MIRROR BEFORE OPENING THE DOOR TO REVEAL ADAYE.

ADAYE

Good morning ladies. What a pleasant surprise.

KHADIJAH

Ditto. Not that I'm not happy to see you, but what brings you into our neck of the woods?

ADAYE

Well, I was looking for a Synclaire James. Does she live here?

KHADIJAH

(perplexed)

Synclaire? Yeah, she's here. Come on in.

THE GIRLS ARE STUNNED. THEY ALL LOOK AT SYNCLAIRE WHO RISES TO GREET ADAYE.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh hello.

ADAYE

Synclaire James. I believe this belongs to you.

HE HANDS HER THE STOLEN PURSE.

SYNCLAIRE

My purse! I thought you looked familiar. Your conscious must've really gotten to you huh? Well, don't worry, I won't press charges, I'm sure the guilt was punishment enough.

MAX

Oh this should be good.

KHADIJAH

Synclaire, meet Adaye Nwoye, the ambassador's son from Nigeria.

SYNCLAIRE

Pardon me. If I may ask, what are you doing with my purse, sir?

ADAYE

Well, my driver found the purse tossed in the street. When searching the wallet for an address he ran across that adorable photo of you and that fellow Barney. To make a long story short, I'm a big Barney fan too and instead of sending your purse through the mail, I had to see for myself if you were as lovely in person as you are in the photo.

REGINE ENTERS FROM UPSTAIRS. SHE HAS OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION.

REGINE

(SOTTO TO KHADIJAH)

Well, ain't this a sight?

ADAYE

I must say, you are indeed more beautiful in person.

SYNCLAIRE

Oh my. I don't know how to thank you.

ADAYE

I do. Have lunch with me today.

KHADIJAH/REGINE/MAX

(SING-SONG)

What?

SYNCLAIRE

I thank you for the invitation and for returning my purse. But I have a busy day ahead of me, and besides this is New York and a young woman has to be extra careful with the people she encounters...

REGINE

(PULLING HER ASIDE)

Synclaire, have you not noticed that Adaye is not only a fine dignitary but he wants to spend the afternoon with you? For goodness sake girl, get to steppin'!

SYNCLAIRE

Adaye, it would be my pleasure to have lunch with you.

ADAYE

Great. Hey listen, this may sound silly, but Barney is going to be at FAO Schwartz in the city and I would like very much to see him in person. How about you?

SYNCLAIRE

(SOTTO TO THE GIRLS)

I could fall in love with a man like this.

(TO ADAYE)

What are we waiting for?

SHE GRABS HER PURSE AND JACKET AND THEY EXIT.

MAX

What just happened here?

KHADIJAH

A fioone African brother just swept my girl Synclaire off her feet.

REGINE

Cinderella style.

MAX

Bow wow!

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW